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SERVICE

NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
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June 30, 1941

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No. 19

U. S. Department of Agriculture



No one would be foolish enough to predict the ultimate outcome of Hitler's sudden lunge against Russia. Here, as everywhere, you can hear ten different opinions in as many minutes, if you want to listen.

But one thing does seem fairly evident. In moving against Russia, the Nazis have struck a powerful blow at the United States. They have scored a direct hit on the psychological defenses of this country.

Millions of Americans hate communism on principle as much or more than fascism. Other millions feel that communism, as it has worked out in Russia, is essentially the same as Nazism. Stalin, to these millions of Americans, is a dictator no less vicious than Hitler, and during the last few months this feeling has been strengthened by the collaboration of Germany and Russia.

Now, quite suddenly, these millions of Americans find their government lined up, in sympathy at least, with Communism. Many of them are either reluctant or downright unwilling to support a cause that has become the cause of communism.

So there is a new breach--and a big one--in our national solidarity.

And here's a tip-off to the fact that Hitler hopes to make the most of it. As this is written there are reports that Germany has made armistice overtures to Britain. One simply can't believe that Hitler seriously thinks the British might call things off while he finishes up in Russia. Whether he really has offered an armistice or merely started the rumor, his real purpose is to strike again at British and American morale. It's a fairly safe bet that before long we'll be hearing something like this "Britain turned down Hitler's offer of an armistice. Why should we keep on aiding a nation that refused peace. Why should we support a cause identified with communism?"

You probably have received your copy of the mimeograph "Your Part in Defense of Democracy." Read carefully the portion describing the morale offensive in total war and you'll see how the attack on Russia and the reported offer of an armistice with Britain can and will be used as a weapon against us. Let's not be fooled.

The important thing to remember is what Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles said on June 23 in his statement of U. S. policy in the German-Russian conflict

"To the people of the United States.... (the).... principles and doctrines of communistic dictatorship are as intolerable and as alien to their own beliefs as are the principles and doctrines of Nazi dictatorship. Neither kind of imposed overlordship can have, or will have, any support or any sway in the mode of life, or in the system of government, of the American people.

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ABOUT DEFENSE

Manufacturing and consumption of rubber have been brought under strict priority control to assure an adequate supply for the ever-growing production of war material. The Rubber Reserve Co., a Government corporation, will be the sole importer of crude rubber from the Far East. OPM has ordered rubber consumption cut 20 percent in gradual steps by December.

- O -

Director M. Clifford Townsend of the Office of Agricultural Defense Relations says the OPM Plant Site Committee, of which he is a member, is attempting to locate defense industries so as to "balance our national economy and avoid the problems of mass migration of workers and the social impact of industrial concentration." Mr. Townsend says that his committee, in considering the location of a defense project, gives first consideration to the technical requirements. Second consideration is directed to the question whether the area for the proposed plant has a large supply of idle labor. He believes equally important are the factors that the proposed site should be within the so-called "safe" zone in regard to distance from the coast, and that it not be located in an area where agricultural commodities essential to defense are being produced.

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To assure continuity of training and to provide replacements for the Army's growing parachute force, a parachute section of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., has been established as a permanent institution.

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Sales of Defense Savings Bonds during the week ended June 14 totaled \$54,139,000. In addition \$663,000 worth of Defense Saving Stamps were sold.

Price Administrator Leon Kende has asked the public not to hoard auto tires, tubes, etc., as he announced that price ceilings may be imposed on all rubber sales. OPM points out there is no shortage of rubber at present and that imports are at a peak. Control is necessary, however, because of shipping uncertainties and the necessity for building up stock piles.

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The National Defense Mediation Board during the week of June 15-22 obtained agreements settling the issues in three labor disputes (all three in one record-breaking day), made public recommendations in two others, and obtained postponement of two strikes. Also during that week C. A. Dykstra, chairman of the Board, resigned in order to give full time to his job as president of the University of Wisconsin, and President Roosevelt asked William H. Davis, vice chairman of the Board, to succeed Mr. Dykstra. Of 43 disputes certified to it since it was established, the Mediation Board has settled 39, with negotiations on the remaining four now in various stages.

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An all out effort to convert enough of America's milk production into cheese and evaporated milk to meet the needs of the British under the Lease-Lend Act has been launched by the USDA. Secretary Wickard says that "to date we have been able to buy only about half the amount of cheese we wanted to obtain by the end of June and less than two thirds of the amount of evaporated milk." In order to encourage the conversion of milk into cheese and evaporated milk, the Department is purchasing these two products at prices which should yield farmers a higher return from milk going into them than into other dairy products, such as butter.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

(Editorial appearing in *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tenn., written by Jennings Perry.)

A conservation district in our state is an area in which the farmers by election held under state law agree to follow certain practices of farming, deemed wise by the majority and recommended by agricultural experts, for a period of years. By this act they receive in this district the advice and aid of state and federal conservation agencies in development of their plan. The process has every appearance of being democratic and sensible.

To Mrs. Annie Phelps Creson, of Fayetteville, however, this conservation program based on districts (which has been followed with great success in other states in the past few years) smacks of dictatorship. Writing in the Forum, she asks, "What right has one group of persons to call and hold an election to determine whether or not I can control the farm I bought and paid for?"

The right, as we have noted is conferred as the right to hold any election is conferred, by state law. For the rest, we understand Mrs. Creson's question. It is the individualist's natural reaction to the assertion of a superior community interest in property. Yet that interest does exist, even where the property is a farm.

We are sure Mrs. Creson is proud and careful of the farm she has bought and paid for, and would never allow it to become a public nuisance, and would not wilfully destroy it. Some of us however have lacked that pride and foregone that care, and in only a few generations untold thousands of acres of once-good farmland in our state have been destroyed. Certainly it is the right and the duty of a state to conserve and restore its natural

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BOY BUILDS TERRACES AND MAKES HEADLINES

Building terraces with a drag pan may not be "news" any longer in Region 2, but when Marlin Griffin, 15-year-old boy in Banks County, Ga., terraced 7-1/2 acres in five days by this method, the Banks County Journal ran a story about it on the front page.

"Marlin Griffin," the paper commented, "is showing us what a little time and a lot of ambition can do, with one mule."

"In five days he built 7-1/2 acres of real good terraces. These terraces are on the John Wood farm near Garrison's store. The terraces have a good wide water channel and will meet the AAA specifications. Kudzu has been planted for an outlet

"These five days work with one mule," the article continues, "will earn all of his soil building check. This was at the rate of \$6 a day. And, what is more important, this field is well protected as far as terracing can do the job."

DISTRICTS AND DEFENSE

In reporting activities of the Central Crowley Ridge Soil Conservation District, Ark., the supervisors have keynoted their summary with the following statement: "The Soil Conservation District has been a great factor and an inspiration in preparing agriculture in this section for the part it must play in the National Defense Program. The productivity of the soil is the basis of our wealth and civilization. Therefore, the conservation of it must be our first line of defense in the long run, so that we may not survive the present emergency to follow the fate of Assyria, China and Egypt. We, the supervisors consider the continuation of the Soil Conservation District of paramount importance to the National Defense Program and to the preservation of our way of life."

DEFENSE COMMITTEES SET UP IN ALL REGIONS

In answer to the President's Proclamation of a full national emergency, SCS has set up defense committees in Washington and the regional offices to determine how SCS may best answer this call to action and to coordinate SCS defense activities as they are initiated. Believing that these committees may wish to exchange ideas, we are publishing a list of the members in each region.

Washington George A. Barnes, Chairman, G. K. Zimmerman, W. L. Southworth, C. R. Enlow, William R. Van Dersal, Leland Barrows

Region I Alan Dailey, Chairman, A. C. McIntyre, J. Blair Muffley.

Region II Arthur W. Susott, Chairman, M. W. Lowry, Geo. W. Dickinson, Alva B. Gross, L. J. Leffelman, S. L. Ready, Verne Davison.

Region III F. E. Charles, Chairman, A. M. Hedge, H. N. Lester.

Region IV J. W. Hammett, Chairman, Hollis R. Williams, E. T. Nagle, Dr. T. J. Cauley

Region V L. R. Combs, Chairman, William T. Cox, Clark E. Jacoby.

Region VI Cyril Luker, Chairman, Fred J. Sykes, C. W. Humble

Region VII M. S. McMurtrey, Chairman, H. C. Cole, W. H. Robinson, Harold Swan (Alternate)

Region VIII F. D. Matthews, Chairman, C. G. Marshall, R. L. Boke.

Region IX George Dunning, Chairman, A. E. Victor, Jay Thaanum

Region X Charles D. Jarrett, Chairman, Fred W. Herbert, Glen M. McKenzie.

HANDBOOK ISSUED ON DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

Parts I and II of the handbook, "Your Part in Defense of Democracy," which has been prepared for the staff of SCS, has been mailed to the field offices for distribution. The copies for Washington personnel will be off the press in a few days. Part I seeks to answer the question, "I want to help in the National Defense Program, but what can I do?" Part II deals with present dangers to America.

There are two more parts to the Handbook which are being prepared now. Part III will include answers to about 200 questions on defense which have been asked by field and Washington personnel. Part IV will be a list of recent pamphlets published on various phases of democracy and defense, also a list of organizations which are publishing this literature.

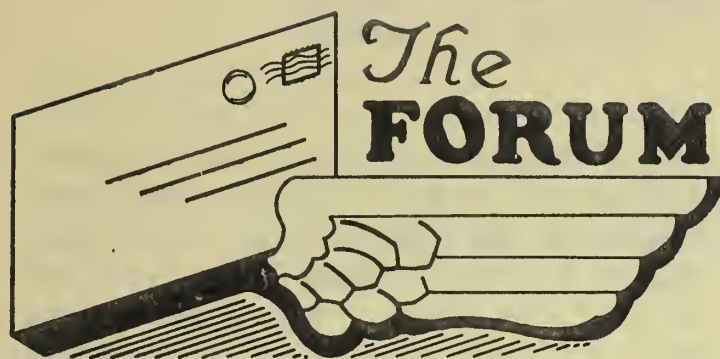
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (Continued from page 1)

"But the immediate issue that presents itself to the people of the United States is whether the plan for universal conquest, for the cruel and brutal enslavement of all peoples and for the ultimate destruction of the remaining free democracies which Hitler is now desperately trying to carry out, is to be successfully halted and defeated.

"That is the present issue which faces a realistic America. It is the issue at this moment which most directly involves our own national defense and the security of the New World in which we live.

"In the opinion of this government, consequently, any defense against Hitlerism, any rallying of the forces opposing Hitlerism, from whatever source these forces may spring, will hasten the eventual downfall of the present German leaders, and will therefore redound to the benefit of our own defense and security.

"Hitler's armies are today the chief dangers of the Americas."



ELUCIDATION

DEAR EDITOR: Let's elucidate! Who is E L? If you cannot give the name, please say that E. L. is not E. S. L. of Arkansas.

At a recent conference of District Conservationists in Fort Worth, Texas, I received several compliments on the article I had written in Service News for March 10, 1941, about some high sounding words which appeared in an Arkansas District Program. Since I had not read the article, I was reluctant to confirm or deny that I had written the article because I had commented on similar topics and there was a chance that someone had quoted me.

When I returned and read the article, I realized that although it did not indicate that E. L. was an Arkansas District Conservationist, it would be very hard for me to deny the authorship of the article since I was the only District Conservationist in Arkansas with the initials E. L.

E. L. was making a good point in his article, but since I knew Supervisors who were former County Agents, Vocational Teachers, FSA Supervisors, Doctors and Lawyers, I would never have ventured out on a limb as far as E. L. All Arkansas farmers are not ignorant.

E. S. L.

(E. L. is a Washington employee. With this we hope we can close the case. Nuff said. -Ed.)

MEET HAWKSHAW

DEAR EDITOR: Knowing that once you had some experience in handling "fan-mail" (for the benefit of the layman, "fan-mail" in the LU Program is that correspondence received from individuals wishing to sell their land), I think you will be interested in the little incident I am about to describe. Your readers may be interested in the story insofar as it indicates how a problem in our everyday work can be solved, without too much effort, by just following through and refusing to give up until you have the answer to your problem.

A letter, addressed to the President, was received from Lizzie Bims (names and addresses used here are changed) of Montpelier, North Carolina, who had "a little track of land out from Poorburg, S. C. this place is call Jiggintown." She "come through" it by her Uncle John Parchie. "It 60 aches the whole thing." "1/2 goes to" her Aunt Sadie Pulp who lives at "Edgwood, S. C. R-Z B 17." She goes on to say, "I want to you to please buy mine good deal of wood on it I havent got a job and my dont get to work every day is rain him out please buy my part 30 A I want it to live on and I am here in this town I want to go back to Middlebury, N. C. please buy it \$105000 one hundred and fifty dollars oblige -- Lizzie Bims, 643 Clovelan Ave., Montpelier, N C "

It seemed evident to me that there was something wrong with this street address -- sufficiently wrong that she might not get the reply if I did not get a correct spelling for it. This is not to mention the problem of whether to address the letter "Miss" or "Mrs.". I suspected she was colored, not that that made any difference in the reply.

Now, from your experience, Editor, how would you proceed to get the correct street address? In fact, how would you suspect that, sitting right here at my desk in
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WESTERN CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT DENVER

A western States conference of SCS and Extension Service personnel is scheduled at Denver, Colo., July 9 to 11. State and regional representatives of both organizations from regions 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 will convene for informal discussions of mutual problems. Similar meetings have been held in most of the regions during the past two years; however, the Denver meeting will draw attendance from a larger area than the earlier meetings.

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James M. Reynolds, Chief of the Personnel Management Division in Region 4, is in Washington on a temporary detail. While here, Mr. Reynolds is serving as acting head of the Training Section. During his absence Horace H. Carroll is directing regional personnel matters.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

(Continued from page 3)

wealth if ways to do so can be found. There are farms that become public nuisances. The hillside farmer, for example, whose right to do as he may list with his land may not be questioned, has little right to cause damage to farms below him by drainage practices which gully his neighbors' fields--or worse, by cultivation practices which allow his own raddled soil to wash down upon the properly husbanded soil of those who make a living beyond his fence.

The soil conservation district program is an effort to allow all the owners of a hillside or of a watershed or a natural farming area to work together to maintain the productivity of their soil and the prosperity of their neighborhood. To us it seems eminently desirable and eminently practicable that this method of cooperation for the general good should be adopted, and it is difficult to see wherein the dread word "dictatorship" has room to rear its head.

NORTON WILL TEACH COURSE IN SOILS

E. A. Norton, Chief of Physical Surveys Division, will teach again his popular course in Soil Classification and Mapping at the summer session--July 21 to August 9--of the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College. During the course there will be an opportunity for intensive field work.

Attendance at last year's summer class included workers from more than 4 States and graduates of 12 colleges. Of the 40 in attendance, all but four were permanent workers in SCS.

MEET HAWKSHAW

(Continued from page 5)

Washington, with only what information I have given you, and at the cost of only three "outside" local calls, I was able to learn (1) that this woman is colored as I suspected, (2) that she is a Mrs., (3) that her husband is one Charlie Bims, a construction worker, and (4) that they live at 643 N Cleveland Ave. which is, as you would suspect, in a colored section of Montpelier? Interesting?

Well, first I found a road map of North Carolina and looked at the enlarged map of Montpelier on the reverse side of the map. That didn't help any. Then I called the American Automobile Association. No help. Then the United States Chamber of Commerce. They had a telephone directory of Montpelier, but I guess Lizzie didn't have a phone. They did refer me to the R. L. Polk Company, local publishers of city directories. And there, Editor, is where I got the low-down on Lizzie. I hope and trust she gets the reply, indicating that we cannot buy her half-interest in the 60 "aches", because, among other reasons, they do not lie within an approved purchase area.

P K H

ABOUT DEFENSE

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS ---

What is the Government doing to prevent a shortage of farm labor? With wages on defense projects so high and so many men in the Army it is difficult to get laborers for farm work.

This problem has received a great deal of attention in Washington. Two important steps have been taken to ease the farm labor situation. First, the Selective Service System has requested local draft boards to give consideration for deferment to workers in agricultural occupations. Second, State and local WPA officials have been instructed to drop from the WPA rolls those who are offered farm jobs--whether seasonal or indefinite--at prevailing wage rates. When seasonal jobs are over, these workers can and should be restored to WPA rolls.

Secretary Wickard recently stated that for one reason and another the maintenance of an adequate supply of agricultural labor had become a serious problem. Shortages of labor are reported in (1) the 10 States between New Hampshire and Virginia along the Atlantic coast, Vermont, Ohio, and Michigan, (2) in the vicinity of defense activities in the Carolinas and Georgia; (3) in special areas or crops in Indiana, Illinois, southern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Arizona.

In some cases, the operators of family-sized farms have been requesting occupational deferment when actually they are entitled to deferment on account of dependency. Such cases are when the father is too old or infirm to operate the farm or a widowed mother is dependent upon the income from the farm and the income is not sufficient to hire outside help.

It seems probable that WPA workers and farmers may not have understood the policy of WPA regarding offers of farm employment. WPA workers sometimes have refused farm

jobs because they did not know they could be restored to the rolls afterward. Farmers generally may have not understood that when a WPA laborer refuses a farm job at the prevailing rate of pay in the community he will be dropped from the rolls.

SCS representatives should inform themselves regarding the WPA and farm labor situation in their community in order that they may help clarify the matter.

A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

(Note: Here are a few isolated facts recently reported by Government sources, which your "What I Want to Know" Editor marked while reading.)

Britain contemplates no increase in prices of Australian wool to U. S.

Canadian grain prospects about normal for all crops.

Japan took about 73 percent of Peru's cotton exports in first four months of 1941 (95,776 bales, compared to 5,932 bales same period last year).

United States exports of cotton (August 1 to June 5) total 974,000 bales, compared to 6,187,000 bales last year same period. Britain took 362,000 bales.

U. S. imported 568,000 bushels of apples from Canada in last year, compared to 106,968 bushels previous year. Surplus production, decline in overseas exports, large supply of preferred sizes, favorable exchange all helped account for increase. Total imports from Canada were 0.5% total U. S. consumption.

Department of Agriculture recently announced changes in ACP program to encourage increased production of soybeans for oil. Although a good market is expected to prevail, price support will be provided AAA cooperators for soybeans.

PRINTERS' INK

"Soil Erosion and Civilization" by W. C. Lowdermilk in the June issue of *The Farmers Press*.

"Cost of Pumping Reduced" by Carl Rohwer, Regional Division of Irrigation, in the May 31 issue of the *California Cultivator*.

"Importance of a Feed Reserve as an Aid in Ranch Conservation" by Roy H. Gough, district conservationist at Marfa, Texas, in the March issue of *The Southwestern Sheep and Goat Raiser*.

Under the heading, "Sedimentation and Hydraulic Structures Studied in the South" Haywood G. Dewey, American Society of Civil Engineers' Freeman Scholar for 1940-41, recounts his visit to the SCS Enoree River Sediment Station at Greenville, S.C., and many of the hydraulic works of the TVA in the June *Civil Engineering*.

An article describing the popularity of the Zaleski State Forest and Lake Hope development in Vinton County, Ohio, appears in the May issue of "Ohio Motor Travel," official publication of the Columbus Automobile Club. The article is illustrated with photographs made by George Pace, Service photographer.

OFF THE PRESS

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions on the Chehalem Mountain Demonstration Project, Oregon" by H.N. Magness and M. F. Sandoz, Erosion Survey No. 20.

"La Conservacion del Suelo en Puerto Rico" by J. A. E. Nolla and G. L. Crawford. Unnumbered Publication. Preface by H. H. Bennett and text are in Spanish.

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Assistant Chief W. C. Lowdermilk has been elected president of the American Geophysical Union for the next year.

FIELD MEMORANDA

- 1006 Change in assignment, Henry G. Herrell and H. Burke Fry.
- 817-C Recording and Disposal of LU Property. (Extends authority under FM 817-A for fiscal year 1942.)
- 1007 Harvesting of grass seed on Title III lands. (Clarifies and revises present procedure)
- 822-A Employment of persons with relatives in Federal Service (Supersedes FM 822 which will continue in full force except where necessary for sound administration, policy may be waived in employment of certain part-time workers.)
- 1008 Congressional limitation for the purchase of passenger-carrying vehicles. (Procedures revised in accordance with recent Comptroller General's opinion.)
- 1005-A National defense employment procedure. (Amends paragraph (g) under Section 12 of FM 1005.)
- 904-N Veteran preference acquired through military training. (Civil Service Commission will grant military preference to individuals furloughed for military service and training on completion of active military service)
- 1009 Certification procedure for detailed personnel.
- 1010 Travel of CCC enrollees. (Travel authorization and travel accounts of enrollees are handled direct by the War Department.
- 1011 Requests for information or rulings with regard to postal matters. (All requests should be cleared through Record Control and Communication Section, Washington, D.C.)